

**LYDIARD MILLICENT
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
30 May 2024
held in the Jubilee Club House, Lydiard Millicent
at 18:00 hrs**

Councillors Present:

Cllr D Coffey Cllr C Hacker Cllr M Suleman Cllr S Westwood

Others in Attendance: H Graham (Meeting Clerk), A Roberts (Parish Administrator),
C Tydeman (Parish Handyman) and 9 Members of the Public.

MINUTES

1. **Chairman's Welcome**
The Chairman, Councillor Sally Westwood welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Appointment of Clerk**
Hayley Graham was appointed as Clerk for the meeting.
3. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Allsop, Cllr Chalker, Cllr Hill-Wheeler, Cllr Selwood and Wiltshire Councillor Bucknell.
4. **Minutes**
The minutes of the last meeting held on 11 May 2023 were approved and signed.
5. **Parish Council Review 2023-2024, Councillor Sally Westwood**
Achieved this year:
 - Play area equipment which was considered to be unsafe has been replaced. Further remedial work is now needed to the original play tower and slide due to the extremely wet winter so the Council are looking to address that this year.
 - Jubilee Club House enhancements are almost complete, with a much more useable meeting room and an improved office.
 - A defibrillator and CCTV have been installed at the Jubilee Club House.
 - Work has continued on Lydiard Green with the removal of unsightly and damaged trees. The Council aim to do further work there this year.
 - Much work has been done with the ground maintenance company to improve the appearance of verges and the cemetery.
 - Biggest impact on the Parish this year was flooding. This proved to be a source of significant frustration for Councillors and residents due to the dependency on Wiltshire Council to alleviate some of the causes. The Council liaised with Wiltshire Council, providing flood maps showing the level of impact across the Parish. Wiltshire Councillor Bucknell worked hard on the Council's behalf and as a result of the combined efforts, some of the gullies at The Butts and The Street have been cleared. The Council are continuing to work on this and aim to get any remaining problem areas address before the onset of Winter.
 - A side effect of the flooding was that it highlighted that an Emergency Resilience plan is needed which is under development. Details were available in the room for anyone who would like to volunteer to help in the event of an emergency.
 - The Council has taken over responsibility for the War Memorial Clock. It is now listed on the asset register, and the funds for it have been ring-fenced in Ear Marked Reserves.

Yet to do:

- At the start of last year, the Council were investigating the possibility of a footpath in the Community field next to the Parish Hall to enhance pedestrian safety. This is still ongoing but proves to be challenging.

- The Council intended to install planters around the Parish however concerns were raised around the cost of maintaining them. There has been no resident feedback on these plans so it is unlikely they will be progressed.
- The Council intended to develop an Environmental Plan for the Parish but this could not be moved forward due to the focus needed on resilience and flood plans. It continues to be something the Council would like to progress.

There have been a number of personnel changes over the past year, the most significant of which is the resignation of our Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Tina Jones. Tina has had a huge impact and will be sorely missed. Our new Parish Clerk will be formally appointed at the next meeting.

Two new Councillors Sam Chalker and Debbie Coffey have joined the Council, Martyn Purcell and Mike Sharp have both resigned. Thanks go to both for the work they have done for the Council.

6. **Parish Council Vision 2024 /2025 – Councillor Sally Westwood**

Jubilee Club House

The main works are now complete and so all Parish Council meetings will take place there. Plans for new tables, chairs and blinds are being progressed, and quotes for hearing loop system are being sought. Improvements to the showers are also underway in line with Health and Safety requirements. The Council are considering adding a veranda outside if funds permit.

Jubilee Club House Play Area

The play tower needs repair, and the Council will be looking at this over the next few months.

Lydiard Green

The Council plans to take some information from the D-Day 80th Anniversary commemoration pop up museum to create display boards by the pill box on the Green. More trees and hedging will also be planted.

Community Field Adjacent to Parish Hall

The Council would still like to put a footpath through the field to make it easier and safer for pedestrians to get to the School and Parish Hall.

Road Safety

The Council have a plan of safety improvements that are being worked on with Wiltshire Council, and the Council is hopeful that the key ones will be progressed this year.

Common Platt

There are plans for more road markings / traffic calming for the road between what was Casa Paolo and Swinley Drive. The Council is working with Purton Parish Council with this.

Greenhill Crossroads

The road from Greenhill crossroads through Greatfield can be dangerous at times, especially due to speeding traffic. In Greatfield, the greatest danger is from speeding cars for pedestrians accessing their front doors. Possible changes are being worked on with Wiltshire Council.

Flooding and Emergency Resilience Plan

More work will be done on this but the Council need residents to help us, Councillors are doing as much as they can.

Life in Lydiard Millicent in WWII

Councillors have been working with residents to pull together information about life in the village in WWII and hope to continue with this over the coming year.

7. **D-Day 80**

6th June is the anniversary of D-Day and the start of Operation Overlord. Many discussions were held around the most appropriate way to mark the occasion. The Council were inspired by a resident sharing their research around the pill boxes and tank trap, and by the discovery of the Parish War Book at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. As a result, a "Lydiard at War" pop up museum will be displayed on D-Day at the Jubilee Club House which will include a copy of the Parish War book, banners displaying information about the Parish during WWII and a display of artefacts on loan from residents. The pop up museum will be on display from 7.30pm on 6th June with light refreshments, and the beacon will be lit at 9.15pm, all are welcome.

8. **Reports from Community Groups**

Cake Break and Light Lunch – Mary Turner

Cake Break continues to be well attended, everyone is welcome for a pot of tea/coffee and delicious homemade cakes and scones. It is held on Mondays 2-4pm (not the 1st Monday in the month), no charge just a voluntary donation if you can. Light Lunch runs monthly on the first Wednesday of the month from 12-2pm. There is no charge, but a donation can be made on the day and booking is required to cater for numbers attending.

ASLM Bellringing Report – Ann Hutchinson and Jeanette Ferris (read by Cllr Westwood)

In May 2023, we had the privilege of ringing for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. We also rang 4 weddings, for the funeral of a local man who loved the sound of church bells, and also a tribute for one of our long term ringers who died this year. Our next historic ring is the National Ring for Peace planned for 6th June to commemorate the 8th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Numbers are steady and learners have progressed well. Thanks to the church wardens, vicar and congregation for ongoing help and support, and to the village as we regularly have positive feedback.

1st Purton and Lydiard Cub Pack – Jess Aleka (read by Cllr Westwood)

We are a cub pack of 18 cubs, 6 leaders and one young leader. We meet every Friday at the Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall. We have recently been learning about fire, personal and home safety with a trip to Westlea Fire Station, and are looking forward to more adventurous activities coming up such as a hike, orienteering and a community project of a litter pick.

9. **Public Question Time**

A resident thanked the Council for delivering on so many positive points, and was pleased to see that a path in the field adjacent to the Parish Hall was still being explored. Councillor Westwood confirmed a meeting with Highways Safety was held to discuss access, but there are still some issues the Council will need to overcome.

A resident advised that defibrillator training in the Parish Hall has been scheduled for 9am on 10th August and asked if this could be publicised on the Council Facebook page. Repairs to the nave roof of the Church are starting in September although the scaffolding may go up in August. A fundraising concert is being held on 13th July for which tickets are not required, refreshments are available and parking is available at the Parish Hall.

Meeting Closed at 18.36 hrs